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**SNOWSLIDES OF THE ROCKIES.**

Peril of the Mountains That Has Caused Great Loss of Life.

Every year the life of a miner in the high mountain regions is menaced by the avalanche or snowslide, and every year brings its list of casualties and of hairbreadth escapes. The story of snowslides would fill a book and would be a thrilling, tragic and in some cases a gruesome one.

Men have ridden hundreds of feet on the back of a snowslide and have escaped unhurt. Others have been caught and buried so deep and in such uncertain spots that their bodies have not been discovered until the melting of the snow in the following spring. Men have been overwhelmed as they slept in their bunks unconscious of danger, others have been crushed and killed outright or have been found after several days alive in their cabins and dug out by a searching party.

Such incidents denote the extreme suddenness, power and velocity of the slide. Little or no warning is given, a roar, a cloud of snow obscuring the sight of the real slide, and in a moment thousands of tons of snow, mingled with trees and debris, are shot down the gulch or the slope of a mountain as from the mouth of a cannon. In a few seconds all is over and the scenery of the little valley is completely changed.

The deadly character of the danger is like the earthquake in its strength and its appalling uncertainty.

**Growth of Chinese Schools.**

In the city of San Francisco are Chinese schools run by the Six Companies, the six largest importing companies, says the Boston Transcript. In these all Chinese children at some time or other in their lives receive some training. Many go to the day English school for Chinese until in the afternoon and finish the day at the Chinese school. All pupils study aloud, and as a natural consequence there is no trouble in locating the institutions. In the public school for Chinese children in Clay street there are 60 girls and 240 boys. In looking over the list of the names, running something like this, Low Gun Sing, Mar Loon, Sit In, Long Ne, Nee Yee, Gim Gun Lo, Bow Hin, it seems almost an impossibility to remember them or to fix them as human beings, yet the teachers say they have no more difficulty with them than with ordinary names. The room for beginners has in it pupils of all ages who have just arrived from the Flowery Kingdom. The schools show no falling off in numbers of children of all ages; in fact, the numbers have doubled within the past few years.

**Washing Gold From City Street.**

Every winter the city trustees of Yreka, Siskiyou county, have the employees of the Fire Department fasten the fire hose to the hydrants along Miner street, the principal thoroughfare of the city, and sluice the mud and slush down a slight declivity into Yreka Creek, says the Sacramento Bee. Following the work the enterprising Yrekaans hunt for nuggets on the hard gravel, and their work is often well rewarded, this year fully \$50 in small gold being picked up. Last year a much greater amount was found, one piece weighing half an ounce. The city of Yreka stands on a rich gravel bed more valuable many times over than the improvements on top of the ground. In making excavations for cellars, etc., gold can be found in every shovel of gravel thrown out.

**Life and Sleep.**

One of the newest fads of the medical world is the sleep cure, says the Dundee Advertiser. According to the physician who has sought to introduce his ideas among the Parisians, one sleeps entirely too little. It is his argument that one lives a certain length of time, and that this time (sickness not considered) is extended over a long or short period, according to the temperament of the person. He cites in support of his theory the longevity of the negroes, and declares that they attain a ripe old age simply because they sleep when work is not absolutely essential. His treatment consists of sending his patient to bed and making him sleep. Eight hours a day one may leave his bed and mingle with the world as he pleases, but not only must the other 16 be spent in bed, but the patient must actually be asleep.

**Big Ohio White Oak.**

A white oak tree, the largest ever cut in Trumbull county, at least for over fifty years, was brought to the Helman ship timber mill recently. The tree as it was delivered to the mill, measured sixty-two feet in length and seven feet through, and contained 7,365 feet of lumber, board measure. The tree was located by Mr. Helman's buyers on the farm of C. K. Shipman in Gustavus and \$100 was the price paid for it. In lumberman's lore each ring found on a tree, counting out from the center, means a year's growth, and the workmen who cut the tree counted 1,050, and then tired, not finishing the job. The Helman company will dress the stick down to 30x30 inches, 62 feet long and will ship it to New York to be used as a dredge anchor.

Mrs. W. K. Vanceport rejoices in the possession of a veritable thimble of that excellent needlewoman, Queen Elizabeth.

**USE OF DYNAMITE IN FIRES.**

New York Does Not Train Sappers and Miners as in Former Days.

Years ago, back in the days of the first volunteer fire departments, gunpowder was one of the great adjuncts in fighting fires. Water supply systems were not then what they are now. It was to gunpowder that people looked when anything like a conflagration threatened. Because of this there came to be in pretty nearly every volunteer department of any size a corps of men who had this special matter in their charge. They were called sappers and miners.

Curiously enough, the corps of sappers and miners still lives, not only in the laws establishing the present department, but also in the department book of rules.

This corps of sappers and miners seems to have come down as a legacy from the old days of the vamps. Perhaps respect for its traditions has been the reason.

It was provided for in the laws establishing the paid department in 1865 and exists to-day in the amended Greater New York Charter, which says that the Fire Commissioner is "hereby empowered and directed to maintain in the department a corps to be known as the corps of sappers and miners."

Under this section of the Charter it is provided that the corps shall be composed of not more than three members of each company and be in charge of an officer appointed by the Commissioner, "who shall be skilled in the use of explosives and whose duty it shall be to instruct and drill said corps in the use of explosives and give the corps such other instruction as may be required to qualify them effectually to discharge their duties."

As a matter of fact, according to the experts of the Fire Department, New York hasn't had any cause to use explosives of any kind to stop a fire since 1835. That was the year of "the New York fire." If any fire in this city can be referred to that way, says the New York Sun, it started at Wall and Water streets and gave the vamps of those days the greatest fight they had ever had. It burned up \$20,000,000 of property.

Gunpowder a lot of it was used at this fire. It wasn't the sappers and miners of the Fire Department that undertook the work of blowing up buildings, but the marines from the Navy yard. They brought over the powder and it was they who took sole charge of the work. Although a number of buildings were blown up it has never been certain that this did much to stop the fire.

"When a fire gets going so that it assumes the size of a conflagration there is created a column of hot air. This column follows the way of the wind and extends hundreds of feet beyond the flames themselves. In some fires this hot air column has been several blocks in length. When this column strikes a building it will cause it to burst into flames. Now, dynamite won't stop that hot air column, but in my opinion," says the New York Fire Chief, "such a column could be broken up with sufficient water."

**No Surprises in Dreams.**

No one is ever surprised in a dream. A man, dreaming is at one moment bathing in the sea at the next moment soaring in a balloon, but the sudden and inexplicable change does not surprise him. Nor is he surprised to meet in the flesh friends long dead; nor is he surprised to find himself doing deeds that really are beyond him, as winning the love of notable beauties, or knocking out champion heavyweights, or besting in debate Senator Beveridge or Senator Tillman.

The reason is that dreamers have no memory. In real life to be pursued through the streets by a lion would be astonishing; but this accident would be accepted in a dream as horrible, but quite commonplace, the memory not being there to say that it is unheard of for lions to pursue one in cities.

In the same way, in dreams, men are not surprised to find themselves ballooning because they don't remember that they were never up in a balloon before, and they are not surprised to find themselves conversing with people, because they don't remember that these people are dead.

**Something About Valuable Stones.**

The black diamond is so hard that it cannot be polished. An uncut diamond looks very much like a bit of gum arabic. The diamond, in sufficient heat, will burn like a piece of charcoal. The island of Ceylon is the most remarkable gem depository in the world. Every gem known to the lapidary has been found in the United States. The carat used in estimating the weight of gems is a grain of Indian wheat.

When a fine ruby is found in Burma a procession of elephants, grandees and soldiers escorts it to the King's palace.

The sapphire which adorns the summit of the English crown is the same that Edward the Confessor wore in his ring.

A man's judgment is not to be mentioned with the way a woman can do things without any.

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